

## OTAC Minutes

January 13, 2011

Red Lion, Salem OR

**NEXT OTAC MEETING – APRIL 7; 12:30-4:00 p.m. at the  
OSU Experiment Station in Aurora**

Sage Grouse Initiative	Jeremy Maestas, NRCS	Information and Feedback
Update provided on Oregon's successful implementation of the NRCS National Sage Grouse Initiative. <a href="#">Click here to view PowerPoint and Handouts</a>		
Changes to National and State Energy Strategy	Dave Dishman, NRCS	Program Update
<p>Energy is now a nationally recognized primary resource concern for NRCS. The other nationally recognized natural resource concerns are Soil, Water, Air, Plants and Animals. This designation means that conservation work with farmers and ranchers can now be tied directly to either energy conservation or renewable energy. This will enable the agency to provide technical and financial opportunities that didn't exist previously and to track producer accomplishments specifically in this area.</p> <p>Oregon NRCS will be working to develop a strategy to incorporate energy as a primary resource concern into existing Farm Bill programs in the state. Oregon already has a very vibrant energy program with numerous partners, so the NRCS efforts will be tailored to tie in with existing energy programs in the state. One of the allowed conservation 'practices' that the agency can pay for is an energy audit. The agency will be working to identify external entities that can complete energy audits.</p> <p>A subcommittee of OTAC was established to assist with development of the energy program and provide feedback. (Jeff Everett, USFWS; Anthony Barber, EPA; Karma Anderson, EPA; Jerry Nicolescu, OACD; Kay Tiesl, OR Cattlemen; Sam Asai, FSA; Matt Krumenauer, ODE; Karl Morgenstern, RC&amp;D Assn.; April Snell, OR Water Resources Congress; Marc Thalacker, Three Sisters Irrigation District; Kathryn Walker, OR Dairy Farmers Assn., Whitney Rideout, OR Assn of Nurseries; Lori Rhodig, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance; Steve Dettman, EcoTrust; Don Wysocki, OSU Extension; Ruben Ochoa, OR Water Resources Division.</p>		
OTAC Member Updates	All OTAC Members	Information
<p>Not all member updates are included here, only those with specific dates or web updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Network of Oregon Watershed Councils – Measure 76 (parks and natural areas) legislation will be addressed in Senate Bill 342</li><li>- Oregon Tilth – Organicology Conference will be held in Portland at the DoubleTree February 10-12 (<a href="http://www.organicology.org/organicology/Welcome.html">http://www.organicology.org/organicology/Welcome.html</a>)</li><li>- Oregon Association of RC&amp;D Councils has a number of energy programs. Check out <a href="http://www.cascadepacific.org/">http://www.cascadepacific.org/</a> and <a href="http://www.wyeast-rcd.org/">http://www.wyeast-rcd.org/</a> for examples</li><li>- Senate Bill 513 (Ecosystem Services and Markets) report is available at <a href="http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/SB513.shtml">http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/SB513.shtml</a></li><li>- OR Department of Environmental Quality has public comments for revisions to water quality standards through February 18 <a href="http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/prDisplay.asp?docID=3526">http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/prDisplay.asp?docID=3526</a></li></ul>		

Biomass Crop Assistance Program and Emergency Forest Restoration Program	Lois Loop, FSA	Program Update
<p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for additional information about the programs presented.</p> <p>Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)</p> <p>This program is administered by the Farm Service Agency and provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measure to resort land damaged by a natural disaster. Program participants may receive financial assistance up to 75% of the cost of to implement approved emergency forest restoration practices up to \$50,000 or less per person or legal entity. The disaster and implementation of the program must be approved by the local FSA County Committee. Additional information can be obtained by visiting the local FSA office or on FSA's website at: <a href="http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov">http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov</a>.</p> <p>Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)</p> <p>The purposes of BCAP are to support the establishment and production of eligible crops for the conversion of power sources to bioenergy and to assist agricultural and forest landowners and operators with the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) of eligible material for use in biomass conversion facilities (BCF's). FSA is currently in the process of accepting application from BCF's that are interested in becoming qualified for the program. Once the BCF is listed as qualified, owners of eligible biomass material owners may visit local FSA offices to sign up for a payment that will match \$1 for \$1 what is paid by the BCF. In additional project areas may be proposed that will support multi-year contracts to encourage the production of biomass crops.</p> <p>Additional information and a list of eligible materials and BCF's can be found at: <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&amp;subject=ener&amp;topic=bcap">http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&amp;subject=ener&amp;topic=bcap</a></p>		
CIG Resource Priorities	Todd Peplin	Update and Concurrence
<p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for handouts outlining the priorities for the state CIG program. State resource priorities were established this year using OTAC priorities combined with natural resource priorities from each basin. OTAC members concurred with use of this process in the future and requested a review of how many grants have been approved in each priority area to determine effectiveness of the focus areas and additional areas that may need focus in the future</p>		
Practice Standard Approval (Herbaceous Weed Control and Fish Passage)	Bill White	Concurrence
<p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for two practice standards. Comments on standards are due to Bill White (<a href="mailto:bill.white@or.usda.gov">bill.white@or.usda.gov</a> by February 10, 2011) OTAC members recommended adding state regulatory requirements to the standards as appropriate</p>		

New Collaboratives Grant Program	Meta Loftsgaarden	Information
<p>US Forest Service, NRCS and Rural Development have teamed up to offer funding through the Community Capacity Land Stewardship program. Funding is available for capacity for local collaborative groups who are working to develop collaborative restoration efforts on public and private lands. Applications are due February 15, 2011. Additional information available at <a href="http://www.nationalforests.org/conserve/grantprograms/ontheground/cbls">http://www.nationalforests.org/conserve/grantprograms/ontheground/cbls</a>.</p>		

**Attendees:** CalLee Davenport, USFWS; Jody Caicco, USFWS; Heather Medina-Sauceda, NRCS; Dave Dishman, NRCS; Anthony Barber, EPA; Karma Anderson, EPA; Jerry Nicolescu, OACD; DC VanNetta, VanNetta Brothers; Jim Cathcart, ODF; Joe Holmberg, OR Tree Farm System; Katie Goff, OR Cattlemen's Assn; Jeremy Baker, OR Conservation Employees Assn Network; Sam Asai, FSA; Matt Krumenauer, OR Dept of Energy; Evelyn Conrad, NRCS; Jeremy Maestas, NRCS; Bill White, NRCS; Karl Morgenstern, OR Assn of RC&D Councils; Ron Alvarado, NRCS; Meta Loftsgaarden, NRCS; Lynn Voigt, FSA; Lois Loop, FSA; April Snell, OR Water Resources Congress; Kathryn Walker, OR Dairy Farmers Assn; Gail Greenman, OR Farm Bureau; Todd Peplin, NRCS; Whitney Rideout, OR Assn of Nurseries; Chris Schreiner, OR Tilth; Dan Herrigstad, NRCS; Melissa Leoni, OWEB; Joshua Seeds, OR DEQ; Lori Rhodig, NW Energy Efficiency Alliance; Bruce Taylor, OR Habitat Joint Venture and Defenders of Wildlife; Steve Dettman, Ecotrust; Don Wysocki, OSU Extension; Ruben Ochoa, OR Water Resources Dept; Robert Hopper, BLM; Charles Fifield; BLM; Tom O'Brien, Network of OR Watershed Councils; Cec Cullison, NRCS; Marc Thalacker, Three Sisters Irrigation District